

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SHENANDOAH APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Festival Fun & Safety

The City of Winchester wants everyone to have a fun time, but more importantly a safe time. With a little pre-Festival planning, you and your family can enjoy all of the parades and events. Police and Medical Aid Stations will have a presence throughout the Festival weekend to assist you. We urge you to follow the laws and act responsibly to avoid unintended consequences.

Detour Routes & Street Closures

The streets designated as Parades will be closed and the Detour Routes (refer map) will become effective as listed below. As soon as the Parades have cleared, the City will open the streets to traffic.

Friday, May 2: *Firefighters' Parade* route will close at 4:00pm until approximately 8:30pm.

Special note: at 1:30pm Handley Boulevard will close for the *Kids Bloomin' Mile*. The race begins at 4:00pm and ends at 5:30pm. The course begins and ends on Handley Blvd in front of the Grandstand; it wraps around the High School campus.

Saturday, May 3: The *10K Race* and *Grand Feature Parade* routes will close to all traffic at 8:00 a.m. and will remain in effect until the end of the parade at approximately 7:00pm. There are no exceptions.

Downtown Parking

With all of the street closings and parking restrictions, the parking garages are really the best alternative for you and your family. All four downtown garages are an easy walk to the Parades or the Midway. Call 722-7575 if you would like to reserve parking spaces.

Friday, May 2: Garages will be open until 10:00pm. Fee for the day is \$15.00.

Saturday, May 3: Garages will open at 8:00am and will not have a set closing time. Fee is \$15.00.

Handicap Parking

Best recommendation is to reserve a space in one of the downtown garages to guarantee that a space will be waiting for you.

Drink Responsibly

Persons attending any Festival event on public streets or grounds are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages or being in the possession of an open container which contains alcoholic beverages. This includes the Parade routes and designated seating areas, the Old Town Midway and the Carnival. Local ordinance offences are punishable by fines or arrests.

Consumption, by persons age 21 years or older, is allowed at Festival events within approved areas and restaurants where state licenses have been obtained. Be responsible and designate a driver.

Personal Safety Tips

- Plan a designated meeting place and emergency plan in the event that family members are separated. If you have lost a child or parent, call 540-662-4131 for assistance.
- Hydrate with water often.
- Don't forget your medications.
- Be aware of what is going on around you.

Medical Aid Stations

A Medical Aid Station is located at the end of the Parade route near the McDonald's restaurant on Gerrard and Cameron Streets (reference map), plus other emergency units are located near the parade routes. If you need medical assistance and cannot get to the emergency station or units on your own, dial 911 for emergency service.

Towed Vehicles

Parade line-up routes and traffic detours create changes to on-street parking areas close to all of the events. Do not park on streets marked "Closed to Parking" – pay close attention to parking restriction signs or your car will be towed. If your vehicle does get towed, contact the non-emergency assistance line at 540-662-4131 to get its location.

Seating on the Parade Route

Parade goers have many options to find seating convenient to parking and many concessions. The Festival, civic organizations and church groups, rent chairs on the Parade route. Many people bring their own chair to watch the Parades. For safety reasons, chairs must stay on the sidewalks. You may sit in the cross streets once the parade routes are closed to traffic. However, you may need to move for emergency vehicle passage.

Important phone numbers

Winchester Police Department Assistance (non-emergency)
Lost children, towed vehicles, etc.
540-662-4131

Information Resource Center
Street closings & detour routes
540-545-4737 or 540-545-4738

Downtown Parking Garages
540-722-7575